

What is Claimed is:

1. A tire changing tool comprising (a) a lever, wherein the lever has a first lever end portion, a second lever end portion and a lever body connecting the first and second end portions and (b) a polymer coating, wherein the polymer coating covers at least one lever end portion.
5
2. The tire tool of claim 1, wherein the polymer coating is further defined as permanently bound to the entire surface area of at least one lever end portion the tire tool.
10
3. The tire tool of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a plastic polymer.
4. The tire tool of claim 3, wherein the plastic polymer is further defined as a thermoplastic, a cross-linked thermoplastic, a thermoset or a thermoplastic elastomer.
15
5. The tire tool of claim 4, wherein the plastic polymer comprises one or more polymers selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane, a polystyrene, a polyester, a polyether, a polyethylene, a polybutylene, a polypropylene, a plastisol, a polyacrylic, a polyvinyl, a polyvinylidene, a polysiloxane, a polyisoprene, an epoxy, a polychloroprene, a fluoropolymer, an ionomer resin, a polyamide, a polyimide, a polysulfide, an acetonitrile-butadiene-styrene co-polymer, a styrene-butadiene co-polymer, a styrene-acrylonitrile co-polymer, a styrene-isoprene co-polymer, an ethylene-propylene co-polymer, a plastisol, a phenol-formaldehyde, an urea-formaldehyde, a melamine-formaldehyde and a vinyl acetate.
20
25
6. The tire tool of claim 2, wherein the entire surface area of the first lever end comprises a polymer coating and the entire surface area of the second lever end comprise a polymer coating.
30

7. The tire tool of claim 6, wherein the first lever end and the second lever end comprise a different polymer coating.
- 5 8. The tire tool of claim 2, wherein the entire surface area of the lever comprises the polymer coating.
9. The tire tool of claim 1, wherein the lever is comprised of one or more materials selected from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, hardened alloy steel, chrome plated steel, forged steel, chrome-vanadium steel, aluminum, magnesium, titanium, Kevlar[®] and carbon fiber.
- 10 10. The tire tool of claim 5, wherein the ionomer resin is an ethylene/methacrylic acid.
- 15 11. The tire tool of claim 5, wherein the polyamide is a nylon.
12. The tire tool of claim 11, wherein the nylon is a nylon 6, a nylon 6,6, a nylon 6,9, a nylon 6,11, a nylon 6,12, a nylon 11 or a nylon 12.
- 20 13. The tire tool of claim 5, wherein the polyvinyl is a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) /polyacrylic alloy.
14. The tire tool of claim 5, wherein the polyvinylidene is a polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF).
- 25 15. The tire tool of claim 5, wherein the fluoropolymer is a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a perfluoroalkoxy (PFA), a fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) or an ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE).
- 30 16. The tire tool of claim 1, further comprising one or more additional lever end portions connected to the lever body.
17. The tire tool of claim 1, further comprising a non-permanent polymer sheath.

18. The tire tool of claim 17, wherein the polymer sheath comprises one or more polymers selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane, a polystyrene, a polyester, a polyether, a polyethylene, a polybutylene, a polypropylene, a plastisol, a polyacrylic, a polyvinyl, a polyvinylidene, a polysiloxane, a polyisoprene, an epoxy, a polychloroprene, a fluoropolymer, an ionomer resin, a polyamide, a polyimide, a polysulfide, an acetonitrile-butadiene-styrene co-polymer, a styrene-butadiene co-polymer, a styrene-acrylonitrile co-polymer, a styrene-isoprene co-polymer, an ethylene-propylene co-polymer, a plastisol, a phenol-formaldehyde, an urea-formaldehyde, a melamine-formaldehyde and a vinyl acetate..
19. The tire tool of claim 17, wherein the sheath covers the entire surface area of at least one lever end of the tire tool, wherein the lever end is defined as a lever end portion which engages a wheel rim.
20. The tire tool of claim 18, wherein the ionomer resin is an ethylene methacrylic acid.
21. The tire tool of claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl is a PVC/polyacrylic alloy.
22. The tire tool of claim 18, wherein the polyamide is nylon.
23. The tire tool of claim 18, wherein the polyvinylidene is a PVDF.
24. The tire tool of claim 18, wherein the fluoropolymer is PTFE, PFA, FEP or ETFE.
25. A kit comprising (a) a tire changing tool, the tool comprising a lever having a first lever end portion comprising a permanent polymer coating, a second lever end portion comprising a permanent polymer coating and a lever body connecting the first and second end portion and (b) at least one polymer sheath.

26. The kit of claim 25, wherein the permanent polymer comprises one or more polymers selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane, a polystyrene, a polyester, a polyether, a polyethylene, a polybutylene, a polypropylene, a plastisol, a polyacrylic, a polyvinyl, a polyvinylidene, a polysiloxane, a polyisoprene, an epoxy, a polychloroprene, a fluoropolymer, an ionomer resin, a polyamide, a polyimide, a polysulfide, an acetonitrile-butadiene-styrene co-polymer, a styrene-butadiene co-polymer, a styrene-acrylonitrile co-polymer, a styrene-isoprene co-polymer, an ethylene-propylene co-polymer, a plastisol, a phenol-formaldehyde, an urea-formaldehyde, a melamine-formaldehyde and a vinyl acetate..
27. The kit of claim 26, wherein the ionomer resin is an ethylene/methacrylic acid.
28. The kit of claim 26, wherein the polyamide is a nylon, wherein the nylon is a nylon 6, a nylon 6,6, a nylon 6,9, a nylon 6,11, a nylon 6,12, a nylon 11 or a nylon 12.
29. The kit of claim 26, wherein the polyvinyl is a PVC/polyacrylic alloy.
30. The kit of claim 26, wherein the fluoropolymer is PTFE, PFA, FEP or ETFE.
31. The kit of claim 25, wherein the polymer sheath comprises one or more polymers selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane, a polystyrene, a polyester, a polyether, a polyethylene, a polybutylene, a polypropylene, a plastisol, a polyacrylic, a polyvinyl, a polyvinylidene, a polysiloxane, a polyisoprene, an epoxy, a polychloroprene, a fluoropolymer, an ionomer resin, a polyamide, a polyimide, a polysulfide, an acetonitrile-butadiene-styrene co-polymer, a styrene-butadiene co-polymer, a styrene-acrylonitrile co-polymer, a styrene-isoprene co-polymer, an ethylene-propylene co-polymer, a plastisol, a phenol-formaldehyde, an urea-formaldehyde, a melamine-formaldehyde, and a vinyl acetate.

32. The kit of claim 25, further comprising one or more tire lubricating agents in a suitable container means, wherein a lubricating agent is selected from the group consisting of a detergent, a soap, an oil, a silicon, a water based jelly, a mineral oil, a graphite and a rust inhibitor.

5

33. A plastic sheath for covering a lever end of a tire tool, wherein the plastic sheath covering the lever end of the tire tool prevents the marring of a wheel rim when the lever end contacts the wheel rim during a tire mounting or dismounting process.

10